



PATENT  
Docket No.: 2565/56

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
GROUP ART UNIT 3763

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

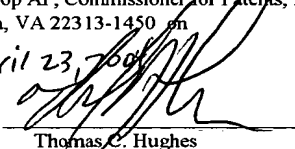
APPLICANT : Martin LAUER  
SERIAL NO. : 09/342,017  
FILED : June 28, 1999  
FOR : CONNECTOR ELEMENT WITH A SEALING PART  
GROUP ART UNIT : 3763  
EXAMINER : Michael J. Hayes

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Arlington, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: April 23, 2004

Reg. No. 42,674

Signature:   
Thomas C. Hughes

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

RECEIVED  
APR 29 2004

SIR:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER

In response to the Final Office Action dated March 9, 2004, Applicants submit the following amendments.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.